

Learning English Through Football

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2015 African Cup of Nations Preview

January 17th 2015

This week's listening report previews the 2015 African Cup of Nations. Listen to the report by clicking [here](#) and answer the worksheet's questions below. There are also answers and a transcript, as well as vocabulary support at the end of this worksheet.

A. Main Idea – Note taking

Listen to the report and fill in the table with any information you hear

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Introduction | |
| Group A | |
| Group B | |
| Group C | |
| Group D | |

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B. Main Idea – True / False

Listen to the whole report and choose whether the following statements are true or false

1. T | F This is the 13th version of the competition.
2. T | F Morocco will not be taking part in this year's tournament.
3. T | F Burkina Faso's nickname is the Stallions.
4. T | F The speaker feels that DR Congo will be the dark horses of the tournament.
5. T | F The speaker feels that Group C is the toughest in the tournament.
6. T | F The speaker sees Ivory Coast and Cameroon progressing to the knock-out stage.

C. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the whole of the report and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word.

1. Equatorial Guinea stepped in to host the finals when Morocco _____ in November of last year due to fears of Ebola.
2. Indeed, any _____ of ten sides is capable of winning this year's tournament.
3. Gabon, are tipped to make it through especially as they have Borussia Dortmund striker Aubameyang in their _____.

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4. Group B is a little more difficult to _____ with 2012 surprise winners Zambia most people's favourites to qualify.

5. ... when they reached the last 16 but they will be up against a _____ South Africa, a dangerous Senegal side and Ghana...

6. Algeria will find it tough but I _____ them to go through along with South Africa.

7. ... for over 20 years and yet again they will be many people's favourites despite the _____ of Didier Drogba after retirement

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ANSWERS

B. Main Idea – True / False

Listen to the whole report and choose whether the following statements are true or false

1. T | F This is the 13th version of the competition.
It is the 30th Version
2. T | F Morocco will not be taking part in this year's tournament.
They were due to host but withdrew in November
3. T | F Burkina Faso's nickname is the Stallions.
Yes
4. T | F The speaker feels that DR Congo will be the dark horses of the tournament.
He feels that Cape Verde might be dark horses
5. T | F The speaker feels that Group C is the toughest in the tournament.
Not quite the group of death but Group C will probably be the closest of all the groups.
6. T | F The speaker sees Ivory Coast and Cameroon progressing to the knock-out stage.
The Indomitable Lions will be without Premier League stars Song and Eto'o but should still have enough to progress to the last 8 along with the Ivory Coast.

C. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the whole of the report and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word.

1. Equatorial Guinea stepped in to host the finals when Morocco **withdrew** in November of last year due to fears of Ebola.
2. Indeed, any **one** of ten sides is capable of winning this year's tournament.
3. Gabon, are tipped to make it through especially as they have Borussia Dortmund striker Aubameyang in their **line up**.
4. Group B is a little more difficult to **call** with 2012 surprise winners Zambia most people's favourites to **qualify**.
5. ... when they reached the last 16 but they will be up against a **resurgent** South Africa, a dangerous Senegal side and Ghana...
6. Algeria will find it tough but I **fancy** them to go through along with South Africa.
7. ... for over 20 years and yet again they will be many people's favourites despite the **loss** of Didier Drogba...

Transcript: 2015 African Cup of Nations Preview

2015 African Cup of Nations Preview

Introduction

The 30th African Cup of Nations starts this weekend in Equatorial Guinea with 16 of the continent's top teams battling it out to make the final on 8th February. Equatorial Guinea stepped in to host the finals when Morocco withdrew in November of last year due to fears of Ebola. Neither the current **holders** of the competition, Nigeria, nor the team with most wins, Egypt, managed to **qualify** for the finals which demonstrates the strength in depth of African football. Indeed, any one of ten sides is capable of winning this year's tournament. In this week's report we take a look at the groups and predict which teams will make the knock-out stage.

Group A

The hosts Equatorial Guinea are only here due to Morocco's withdrawal after they had been disqualified for fielding an ineligible player in qualifying and despite being hosts are not expected to do well at all. Their co-hosts from two years ago, Gabon, are tipped to make it through especially as they have Borussia Dortmund striker Aubameyang in their line up. Burkina Faso, the Stallions, should also progress and will be hoping to go one better after losing in the final last time out, while Congo's inexperience at this level means they will probably miss out.

Group B

Group B is a little more difficult to call with 2012 surprise winners Zambia most people's favourites to **qualify**. Tunisia knocked out powerhouse Egypt in qualifying but the Carthage Eagles will find it difficult away from home, which leaves the DR Congo and Cape Verde pushing for second spot in the group – with my vote going to Cape Verde. Indeed, the Blue Sharks, as they are known, may surprise a few people and make the semi-finals – a possible **dark horse** of the tournament?

Group C

Not quite the **group of death** but Group C will probably be the closest of all the groups. Many people's favourites Algeria will be hoping to continue their World Cup form when they reached the last 16 but they will be up against a resurgent South Africa, a dangerous Senegal side and Ghana. The Black Stars of Ghana are also among the favourites but they will find South Africa an extremely motivated side after their former captain and **goalkeeper** Senzo Meyiwa was killed last year. Algeria will find it tough but I fancy them to go through along with South Africa.

Group D

It is hard to believe that the Ivory Coast, with all of their top players, have not won the African Cup of Nations for over 20 years and yet again they will be many people's favourites despite the loss of Didier Drogba after retirement. The Elephants will be up against Mali, Guinea and Cameroon who will be hoping for a better showing than their poor performance at the 2014 World Cup. The Indomitable Lions will be without Premier League stars Song and Eto'o but should still have enough to progress to the last 8 along with the Ivory Coast.

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Vocabulary support

- **host nation:** The country where the tournament takes place
- **battling it out:** Trying to win
- **the strength in depth:** There are many good teams involved in the competition
- **to make it through:** To progress; [qualify](#)
- **to go one better:** To become champions (after losing in the final last time)
- **miss out:** To fail to [qualify](#)
- **group of death:** The toughest group in a tournament
- **resurgent:** Doing well again; back to their previous good form
- **I fancy them to go through:** I tip them to progress
- **The Indomitable Lions:** Nickname of Cameroon
- **still have enough to progress:** Will be good enough to make it through

Additional Links

- [BBC's view](#) on the tournament
- [Wikipedia's page](#) on the African Cup of Nations
- [The Guardian's](#) preview is here